

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT Airfields in East Germany

DATE DISTR. 11 Oct 51 25X1

NO. OF PAGES 3

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Dessau Airfield.

The field is in good condition and in continuous use. Lengthening of the field may be in progress in the direction of Bahnhof Alten. Exact location of taxiways from the eastern edge of the field could not be determined. No stationary fuel installations have been observed at Dessau airfield. Tank trucks are used to refuel aircraft. A radio station is located in the administration building. The building has a double antenna and two tube masts. Near the Bahnhof Alten, which is the take-off and landing location for jet aircraft, there were radio trucks at which activity was observed when aircraft were in the air. A radio shack is also located at the take-off point.

The following aircraft were observed on the field in April 1951:

- 22 Jet fighters (probably MiG 15's)
- 3 Jet trainers
- 46 Conventional fighters
- 17 Two-motored aircraft (probably bombers)
- 4 Two-motored transports
- 30 Miscellaneous type aircraft

In general, the airfield is not guarded, but there may be guard posts at the east edge of the field. The concrete taxiway at Bahnhof Alten is guarded and all aircraft are under surveillance at all times. Camouflage is not used and photographing of the field is possible from the road.

2. Reinsdorf Airfield

The field is approximately 700 m. wide and 1,500 m. long. The ground is either clay or loam and tufts of grass can be seen on the field. There are no administration buildings, and the guard unit of about 200 men is quartered in tents at the eastern edge of the field. Five radio trucks with telescoping antennae approximately ten meters high were observed at Reinsdorf Airfield.

The following aircraft were observed at Reinsdorf 14 April 1951:

- 5 High-wing planes
- 7 Twin-engine propeller-type planes
- 18 Planes identified as IL-10 attack planes

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The following aircraft were observed at Reinsdorf 13 May 1951:

- 3 High-wing planes
- 45 Planes identified as IL-10 attack planes
- 5 Two-winged planes

The field is used during the summer only.

3. Brand (Lriesen) Airfield

Construction activity began at Brand Airfield 1 April 1951. Surveying and leveling operations have not been started. When completed, the field will measure 1.6 km by 3.5 km. The north and east sides of the proposed airfield have already been cleared.

The following construction materiel is located near the airfield:

- 3,000 Sacks of cement at Brand Railroad Station
- 2,500 Sacks of cement near the Brand-Krausnick road
- A gravel pit near the Brand-Krausnick road

There are two administration buildings and nine barracks located in the southwest corner of the field. A railroad spur is located along the southern and western edges of the field, and a road is being built parallel to the railroad line. A narrow-gauge rail spur is in use between the field and the gravel pit. Six well-boring machines are employed in digging holes to facilitate drainage of the field.

There appear to be no security measures in operation at present, and neither Soviet nor Volkspolizei units have appeared at the field. Traffic on the railroad and the highway are not controlled.

4. Merseburg Airfield

Merseburg Airfield measures 2.5 m. from east to west and .8 m. from north to south. A concrete runway 80 m. wide and 800 m. long has been completed. This runway which runs in an east-west direction has a depth of about 30 cm. The ratio of concrete to gravel is 1 to 5 and there is a 5 cm topping of fine gravel and cement. Construction began 22 May 1951 on the elongation of the runway to 2,000 meters.

There is a railroad line connecting the field with the Merseburg-Schköppen rail line.

The airfield is guarded by a Volkspolizei detachment of about forty men. In addition to its regular individual weapons, this detachment has two batteries of 120 mm M1A guns. Since 20 April 1951, a Soviet company of air force troops numbering about 30 men has been stationed at Merseburg airfield.

5. Halle-Heide

The railroad siding at Nietleben is being lengthened to facilitate the construction of a large airfield on the Halle-Heide. Estimated cost of the construction is three and one-half West German Marks.

At present, the following buildings are under construction in a compound located northwest of Halle:

- 6 Barracks
- 1 Administration building
- 1 Warehouse
- 3 Garages
- 1 Workshop

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A part of the Halle-Weide is restricted. In this restricted area, the following military emplacements have been observed:

- 12 Concrete AA positions
- 50 Bunkers and trenches

6. Brandenburg Airfield

On 21 April 1951, four twin-engine jet aircraft were seen flying over Baruth. These aircraft were tentatively identified as IL-27's.

On 14 April 1951, thirty to thirty-five jet aircraft tentatively identified as MiG 15's were seen flying near Lehre about six o'clock in the afternoon. These aircraft were engaged in strafing and bombing practice. One of these aircraft is said to have crashed near Gerlitz. Another jet aircraft crashed near Colssen. The crash was attributed to the failure of an automatic pilot and the wreckage was taken to Torgsdorf.

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